

MAR 13 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO ADOPT DEFINITIONS FOR
SMALL AND LARGE FARMS.

1 WHEREAS, there is a need to define farms by the process of
2 the operations and not the acreage or amount of revenue; and
3

4 WHEREAS, small farms, defined by the United States
5 Department of Agriculture as those with a gross cash farm income
6 less than \$350,000, range from retirement and residential farms
7 with little or no output to commercially oriented farms and with
8 operators employed full-time in agriculture; and
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10 WHEREAS, according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, the
11 United States Department of Agriculture categorizes nearly
12 ninety-two percent of farms in Hawaii as small farms; and
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14 WHEREAS, neither the Department of Agriculture nor the
15 Agribusiness Development Corporation have clear definitions of
16 small and large farms; and
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18 WHEREAS, often times legislation is introduced that
19 includes language without a clear and concise definition; and
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21 WHEREAS, Hawaii needs Hawaii-specific language to bring
22 clarity to the definition of small and large farms and to be
23 able to measure changes in agricultural diversity; now,
24 therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
28 that the Board of Agriculture and the Agribusiness Development
29 Corporation Board of Directors are requested to adopt
30 definitions of small farms and large farms; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that small farms be defined as farms
33 where ownership has direct management of daily operations and
34 works on the farm; and
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that large farms be defined as farms where ownership has hired management for daily operations and does not work on the farm; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture and the Agribusiness Development Corporation use these definitions for all administrative actions that require the clear definition of the size of the farm; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture and the Chairperson of the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors.

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